

#2/A  
11-101

PATENT  
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of )  
Walter Best, et al. ) Art Unit: To be assigned  
Serial No. To be assigned ) Examiner: To be assigned  
Filed: Concurrently Herewith )  
Title: FILTER DEVICE ) Attorney Docket No. 16202.640

Honorable Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to the initial examination of the above-identified patent application, please  
amend the above application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

4. The filter device as defined in Claim 1, wherein the first filter element(s) (2, 12, 22, 23) is/are surrounded by the second filter elements (3 through 6; 13 through 20; 24, 25).

5. The filter device as defined in Claim 1, wherein the second filter elements (3 through 6; 13 through 20; 24, 25) are also made of electrically conductive ceramic material.

7. The filter device as defined in Claim 1, wherein the second filter elements (3, through 6; 13 through 20; 24, 25) are made of an electrically nonconductive ceramic material.